modified products is regulated through Indian Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules 1989 made thereunder, wherein it is mandatory to seek approval of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), Ministry of Environment & Forests, before releasing any genetically modified product in the country.

(b) There is no scientific literature to indicate any kidney or liver disease or any chahge in reproductive capacity in rats fed on genetically modified maize nor any experiments conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad reveal any cases of kidney or liver diseases.

(c) and (d) As on date, GEAC has not approved release of any genetically modified food product.

**Development of National Waterway-Ill**

3226. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the development work of National Waterway-Ill.

(b) whether any proposal seeking sanction to develop the National Waterway submitted by the State Government of Kerala is pending;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) whether Government have conducted any feasibility study for the renovation of waterway from Kollam to Kovalam; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Various development works like capital dredging, construction of terminals, provision of channel markings, bank protection works, etc. have been undertaken in National Waterway-3. Capital dredging has been completed between Kochi and Thakazhi jetty (South of Alappuzha) stretch as also in Udyogmandal and Champakara canals. Capital dredging is in progress in Kochi-Kottapuram stretch. In the remaining stretch of waterway from Thakazhi jetty to Kollam (50 Km.), the dredging work has come to a stand-still due to some local issues and contractual problems. Terminals at seven locations namely Kottapuram, Aluva, Maradu, Viakom, Thannermukkom, Trikkunnapuzha and

Kayamkulam, have been constructed. Navigational aids for day and night navigation have been provided in Kochi-Allapuzha section of West Coast Canal and also in Udyogmandal and Champakara canals.

(b) to (e) Government of Kerala had requested to consider declaration of extension of National Waterway No. 3 between Kottapuram to Kasargod in North and Kollam to Kovalam in South. Techno-economic feasibility study for extension of National Waterway-3 from Kottapuram to Kasaragod in North and Kollam to Kovalam in South has been completed. This study indicated that with these extensions the waterway has potential for development. However, in view of the problems being faced for development of existing National Waterway-3 and its slow progress, the extension is not bieng pursued at present.

**Bridge across river Godavari**

3227. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been no response from the NHAI on a survey for a new bridge across the river Godavari;

(b) whether such a representation been received from the Road Safety Forum asking for a survey of such a bridge;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps proposed to meet this demand in public interest; and

(e) the time schedule for implementing this demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (e) Representations were received from Road Safety Forum for survey for a bridge across river Godavari between Kumaradevam (West Godavari District) and Thatileru (East Godavari District) in Andhra Pradesh. The location of the proposed bridge does not fall on existing National Highway No. 5, but on a State road. The responsibility for development of roads other than National Highways lies with the State Government.